1. Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied BWV 225
2. Fürchte dich nicht, ich bin bei dir BWV 228
3. Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden BWV 230
4. Jesu, meine Freude BWV 227
5. Komm, Jesu, komm BWV 229
6. Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf BWV 226

Produced by Nicholas Parker | Executive Producer: Paul Smith
Engineered by Andrew Mellor and Mike Hatch of Floating Earth
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Dingle Yandell	Bass

THE SENESINO PLAYERS

Simon Kodurand Leader	Violin
Ben Samson	
Alexandria Lawrence	Viola
Joanne Mills*	
Sarah Westley	Cello
Peter McCarthy	Violone
Philip White-Jones	Organ
Isacco Colombo†	Oboe
Dorothea Fenton†	
Laura Osbaldeston†	Oboe da caccia
Zoe Matthews†	Bassoon

VOCES8 and THE SENESINO PLAYERS directed by
BARNABY SMITH

*Track 4 | †Tracks 1, 2, 5 and 6

Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied BWV 225

Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied,
Sing to the Lord a new song,
Die Gemeine der Heiligen sollen ihn loben.
The congregation of the saints should praise him.
Israel freue sich des, der ihn gemacht hat.
Israel rejoices in the one who made him.
Die Kinder Zion sei'n fröhlich über ihrem Könige,
Let the children of Zion be joyful about their king,
Sie sollen loben seinen Namen im Reihen;
They should praise his name in their dances;
Mit Pauken und mit Harfen sollen sie ihm spielen.
With drums and harps they should play for him.

Wie sich ein Vater erbarmet
As a father feels compassion
Über seine junge Kinderlein,
For his young little child,
So tut der Herr uns allen,
So does the Lord for all of us,
So wir ihn kindlich fürchten rein.
If we feel pure childlike awe.
Er kennt das arm Gemächte,
He knows how weak is our strength,
Gott weiß, wir sind nur Staub,
God knows, we are but dust,
Gleichwie das Gras vom Rechen,
Like grass before the rake,
Ein Blum und fallend Laub.
A flower or falling leaf.
Der Wind nur drüber wehet,
The wind has only to blow over it,
So ist es nicht mehr da,
And it is there no more,
Also der Mensch vergehet,
And so man passes away,
Sein End das ist ihm nah.
His end is near him.

Gott, nimm dich ferner unser an,
God, in future take us to yourself,
Denn ohne dich ist nichts getan
For without you nothing is accomplished
Mit allen unsern Sachen.
In all our affairs.
Drum sei du unser Schirm und Licht,
Therefore be yourself our protection and light,
Und trügt uns unsre Hoffnung nicht,
And if our hope does not deceive us,
So wirst du's ferner machen.
Then in future you will continue to be so.
Wohl dem, der sich nur steif und fest
Happy are those who firmly and fastly
Auf dich und deine Huld verläßt.
Depend on you and your grace.

Lobet den Herrn in seinen Taten,
Praise God in his works,
Lobet ihn in seiner großen Herrlichkeit!
Praise him in his great glory!
Alles, was Odem hat, lobe den Herrn, Halleluja!
Let all that has breath praise the Lord, Hallelujah!

Fürchte dich nicht, ich bin bei dir BWV 228

Fürchte dich nicht, ich bin bei dir;
Do not fear, I am with you;
Weiche nicht, denn ich bin dein Gott;
Do not give way, for I am your God;
Ich stärke dich, ich helfe dir auch,
I strengthen you, I also help you;
Ich erhalte dich durch die rechte Hand meiner Gerechtigkeit.
I uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.

Fürchte dich nicht, denn ich habe dich erlöset;
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
Ich habe dich bei deinem Namen gerufen, du bist mein.
I have called you by your name, you are mine.

Herr, mein Hirt, Brunn aller Freuden,
Lord, my Shepherd, source of all joys,
Du bist mein, ich bin dein,
You are mine, I am yours,
Niemand kann uns scheiden.
No one can separate us.
Ich bin dein, weil du dein Leben
I am yours, since by you your life
Und dein Blut, mir zu gut,
And your blood, for my benefit,
In den Tod gegeben.
Have been given in death.
Du bist mein, weil ich dich fasse
You are mine, since I seize you
Und dich nicht, o mein Licht,
And, O my light, never
Aus dem Herzen lasse,
Shall I let you leave my heart,
Laß mich, laß mich hingelangen,
Let me, let me come,
Da du mich und ich dich
Where you by me and I by you
Lieblich werd umfangen.
Shall be embraced in love.

Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden BWV 230

Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden,
Praise the Lord, all the heathens,
Und preiset ihn, alle Völker!
And celebrate him, all the peoples!
Denn seine Gnade und Wahrheit
For his grace and truth
Waltet über uns in Ewigkeit.
Reign over us for ever.
Alleluja!
Alleluia!

Jesu, meine Freude BWV 227

Jesu, meine Freude,
Jesus, my joy,
Meines Herzens Weide,
My heart's delight,
Jesu, meine Zier,
Jesus, my treasure,
Ach wie lang, ach lange
Ah how long, ah how long
Ist dem Herzen bange
Must my heart be anxious
Und verlangt nach dir!
And full of longing for you!
Gottes Lamm, mein Bräutigam,
Lamb of God, my bridegroom
Außer dir soll mir auf Erden
Besides you there is in on earth
Nichts sonst Liebers werden.
Nothing else that is dearer to me.

Es ist nun nichts Verdammliches an denen, die in Christo Jesu sind, die nicht nach dem Fleische wandeln, sondern nach dem Geist.
There is now no condemnation in them who are in Christ, and who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

Unter deinem Schirmen
Beneath your protection
Bin ich vor den Stürmen
I am free from the raging
Aller Feinde frei.
Of all enemies.
Laß den Satan wittern,
Let the devil sniff around,
Laß den Feind erbittern,
Let my enemy become incensed,
Mir steht Jesus bei.
Jesus stands by me.
Ob es itzt gleich kracht und blitzt,
Even though thunder crashes and lightning blazes,
Ob gleich Sünd und Hölle schrecken:
Even though sin and hell terrify:
Jesus will mich decken.
Jesus will protect me.

Denn das Gesetz des Geistes, der da lebendig machet in Christo Jesu, hat mich frei gemacht von dem Gesetz der Sünde und des Todes.
For the law of the spirit, which makes me living in Christ Jesus, has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Trotz dem alten Drachen,
I defy the ancient dragon,
Trotz des Todes Rachen,
I defy the jaws of death,
Trotz der Furcht darzu!
I defy the fear they cause!
Tobe, Welt, und springe,
Rage, World, and leap upon me,
Ich steh hier und singe
I stand here and sing
In gar sichrer Ruh.
In the calm of certainty.
Gottes Macht hält mich in acht;
God's power takes care of me;
Erd und Abgrund muss verstummen,
Earth and Hell's abyss must fall silent,
Ob sie noch so brummen.
However much they roar.

Ihr aber seid nicht fleischlich, sondern geistlich, so anders Gottes Geist in euch wohnet. Wer aber Christi Geist nicht hat, der ist nicht sein.
But you are not of the flesh, but of the spirit, and so God's spirit dwells in you in a different way. But whoever does not have Christ's spirit is not his.

Weg mit allen Schätzen!
Away with all treasures!
Du bist mein Ergötzen,
You are my delight,
Jesu, meine Lust!
Jesus, my desire!
Weg ihr eitlen Ehren,
Away with all vain honours,
Ich mag euch nicht hören,
I don't want to hear of you,
Bleibt mir unbewußt!
Remain unknown to me!
Elend, Not, Kreuz, Schmach und Tod,
Suffering, distress, the cross, shame and death,
Soll mich, ob ich viel muß leiden,
However much I have to suffer,
Nicht von Jesu scheiden.
Will never separate me from Jesus.

So aber Christus in euch ist, so ist der Leib zwar tot um der Sünde willen; der Geist aber ist das Leben um der Gerechtigkeit willen.
If Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Gute Nacht, o Wesen,
Good night, o [earthly] existence,
Das die Welt erlesen,
What the world has to offer,
Mir gefällst du nicht.
Does not please me at all.
Gute Nacht, ihr Sünden,
Good night, you sins,
Bleibet weit dahinten,
Stay far away from here,
Kommt nicht mehr ans Licht!
Come no more to the light!
Gute Nacht, du Stolz und Pracht!
Good night, arrogance and splendour!
Dir sei ganz, du Lasterleben,
To everything about you, sinful existence,
Gute Nacht gegeben.
I bid goodnight.

So nun der Geist des, der Jesum von den Toten auferwecket hat, in euch wohnet, so wird auch derselbige, der Christum von den Toten auferwecket hat, eure sterbliche Leiber lebendig machen um des willen, daß sein Geist in euch wohnet.
Now the spirit that has raised Jesus from the dead, dwells in you, the very same spirit that has raised Jesus from the dead, gives life to your mortal bodies, so that his spirit may dwell in you.

Weicht, ihr Trauergeister,
Vanish, spirits of gloom,
Denn mein Freudenmeister,
For my joyful master,
Jesus, tritt herein.
Jesus, enters in.
Denen, die Gott lieben,
For those who love God,
Muß auch ihr Betrüben
Even their grief
Lauter Zucker sein.
Must become pure delight.
Duld ich schon hier Spott und Hohn,
Here I may have scorn and derision,
Dennoch bleibst du auch im Leide,
But even in the midst of suffering you remain,
Jesu, meine Freude.
Jesus, my joy.

Komm, Jesu, komm BWV 229

Komm, Jesu, komm,
Come, Jesus, come,
Mein Leib ist müde,
My body is weary,
Die Kraft verschwindt je mehr und mehr,
My strength fails me more and more,
Ich sehne mich
I am longing
Nach deinem Friede;
For your peace;
Der saure Weg wird mir zu schwer!
The bitter way is becoming too difficult for me!
Komm, ich will mich dir ergeben;
Come, I shall give myself to you;
Du bist der rechte Weg, die Wahrheit und das Leben.
You are the right way, the truth and the life.

Drum schließ ich mich in deine Hände
Therefore I put myself in your hands
Und sage, Welt, zu guter Nacht!
And bid goodnight to the world!
Eilt gleich mein Lebenslauf zu Ende,
If my life's course hastens onto the end,
Ist doch der Geist wohl angebracht.
My soul is then well-prepared.
Er soll bei seinem Schöpfer schweben,
It will rise up to be with its creator,
Weil Jesus ist und bleibt
For Jesus is and remains
Der wahre Weg zum Leben.
The true way to life.

Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf BWV 226

Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf,
The spirit comes to help our weakness,
Denn wir wissen nicht,
For we do not know,
Was wir beten sollen,
What we should pray,
Wie sich's gebühret;
As we ought to pray;
Sondern der Geist selbst vertritt
But the spirit itself pleads
Uns aufs beste mit unaussprechlichem Seufzen.
For us in the best way with inexpressible groans.
Der aber die Herzen forschet, der weiß,
But he who searches our hearts knows,
Was des Geistes Sinn sei;
What the Spirit means;
Denn er vertritt die Heiligen nach dem,
Since he pleads for the saints,
Das Gott gefället.
In the way that pleases God.

Du heilige Brunst, süßer Trost,
You sacred warmth, sweet consolation,
Nun hilf uns, fröhlich und getrost
Now help us joyful and comforted
In deinem Dienst beständig bleiben,
In your service, always to remain,
Die Trübsal uns nicht abtreiben.
Do not let sorrow drive us away.
O Herr, durch dein Kraft uns bereit
O Lord, through your power make us ready
Und stärk des Fleisches Blödigkeit,
And strengthen the feebleness of our flesh,
Dass wir hie ritterlich ringen,
So that we may bravely struggle,
Durch Tod und Leben zu dir dringen.
Through life and death to reach you.
Halleluja, halleluja.
Alleluia, alleluia.

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THE SENESINO PLAYERS

Directed by Barnaby Smith, the Senesino Players has developed a reputation for stylistically sensitive performance of the music of the late Baroque and early Classical eras.

The flagship orchestra of the organisation Voces Cantabiles Music, the Senesino Players is a dynamic, youthful and talented group of young professional performers based in London. The ensemble has an ongoing collaboration with VOCES8.

VOCES8

The international award-winning octet VOCES8 has established itself as the foremost young British a cappella group. Performing a repertoire ranging from Renaissance polyphony to unique jazz and pop arrangements, the group has been praised for stunning performance, exquisite singing and creating a sound that spans the entire range of vocal colour.

Founded in 2003 by ex-choristers of Westminster Abbey, VOCES8 first achieved success in 2005, winning first prize at the International Choral Grand Prix in Gorizia, Italy. Subsequently the group has performed widely in the UK, Europe, the USA, Africa and Asia.

VOCES8's career has developed both in the classical choral scene and the world of a cappella. In 2009, the group's first commercial album, EVENSONG, was nominated for a CARA. The first of the group's discs to be released on the Signum Classics label, ACES HIGH, is a scintillating collection of VOCES8's unique interpretations of jazz and pop favourites and theme tunes from the legendary James Bond movies, arranged by Jim Clements.

Notable London appearances include the Royal Festival Hall, the Wigmore Hall, Alexandra Palace, Kings Place, the Purcell Rooms and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. VOCES8 broadcasts regularly on international television and radio, including live recordings for Deutschlandradio Kultur and Radio France Musique.

VOCES8 plays a key role in the education work of the non-profit foundation Voces Cantabiles Music. The group leads innovative workshops as part of larger outreach projects in two-hundred schools throughout the UK. VOCES8's education work extends to workshops and master-classes with people of all ages and abilities around the world with the aim of inspiring creativity through music.

VOCES8 has received support from Arts Council England, the Musicians Benevolent Fund and The Worshipful Company of Musicians. The group is also grateful for the support of official sponsor, T.M.Lewin.

BACH'S MOTETS

Given the scale of Bach's oeuvre, one might assume that there may not be too much to gather about the composer from a mere six motets, a form otherwise unrepresented in his repertory. However, Bach's motets are among the greatest of his output.

Music was fundamental in the Lutheran liturgy of Bach's lifetime. Indeed, just over a century before Bach's birth, Luther's vision of united social classes and the liturgical involvement of all was realised through the medium of hymn singing. The motet however was not part of the conventional Lutheran liturgy. Coupled with Bach's choice of texts, this suggests that these motets must have been written individually: special commissions for funeral services or important church feasts are the most likely occasions.

Why then perform Bach's motets as a collection? VOCES8's answer is simple. Collectively these motets epitomise Bach's passion for and commitment to the Lutheran faith. To draw on but two examples, *Fürchte dich nicht, ich bin bei dir* ('Do not fear, I am with you') gives emphasis to the belief in the afterlife by first repeating and then concluding with the opening text. In *Komm, Jesu, komm*, the final chorale is a poignant conclusion to the complex polyphonic setting of '*du bist der rechte Weg, die Wahrheit und das Leben*' ('you are the right way, the truth and the life'), which, after a lengthy passage of musical and textual repetition, is the literal coming together of the eight parts and congregation: '*Drum schließ ich mich in deine Hände*' ('therefore I put myself in your hands').

Through the media of text and music the six motets emanate Bach's religious faith and demonstrate the essential parallels between this belief and his art. It is this brilliance that motivated VOCES8's recording of Bach's motets, inspiring the ensemble to communicate his music with passion and exuberance.